

INFLUENCING DECISIONS

Media and Lobbying in Parliament

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CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
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Media and Lobbying

- Election times that that these voices, particularly from charities, matter most
- Well-placed to spot the unintended consequences of proposed changes to legislation and able to highlight the gaps that risk leaving sections of our society behind.
- Outside of election periods, their presence in the political system helps ensure government accountability.
- Nowadays, media and lobbying have also grown to include online tools, such as social media and sites such as 38 Degrees and Change.org

MPs in their Constituency



Created by Eucalyp
from Noun Project

- Over 18 months from 2015 to 2017
- Ethnography in the constituency
- Semi-structured interviews
- Collection of traditional, social media and online materials
- Analysis of interview transcripts

Tessa Munt MP - working for you



Please feel free to get in touch. Here are my contact details.

Regards
Tessa

Contact Tessa
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Printed by Flying Colours Notting Hill Way House Ashbridge Somerset BS28 3LJ. Published and presented by Wells Constituency Liberal Democrats, Hodge Chambers, Cheddar Road, Wedmore Somerset BS28 4EH.
Produced at no expense to the taxpayer



Andrew Smith MP

Your Local MP – Working for you all year round in Oxford East



If you have a question or problem you would like help with, please give your contact details below and pop this card in the post.

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Tel

I would like information/help with:

PLEASE CONTACT ME

ADVICE SURGERIES: Andrew sees all constituents but as surgeries are always busy it helps if you arrange an appointment – please ring **(01865) 595 790**.

First Friday of the month:

- 3pm Barton Community Centre
- 4pm Princes Street Chinese Community & Advice Centre
- 6pm Rose Hill Community Centre

Third Friday of the month:

- 3pm Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre
- Doorstep surgeries around the constituency

7 ways to contact Andrew

- **WRITE** to Andrew's Constituency Office at Unit A, Bishops Mews, Transport Way, Oxford OX4 6HD
- **PHONE** Andrew's Constituency Office on **01865 595 790**
- **SEND** back this card
- **EMAIL** andrewsmith.mp@gmail.com
- **VISIT** www.andrewsmithmp.org.uk
- **TWITTER** @AndrewSmithMP
- **FACEBOOK** Facebook.com/AndrewSmithMP





Peter Kyle MP ✓

21 August · 🌐

Let's talk about an issue that's dividing our city right now lanes.

You know I'm not one to dodge a tough issue and I also really understand something from the inside. Well, this is:

Ever since the easing of lockdown more people have taken been inundated with messages. I've had messages from pedestrians and many others and there's only one thing common: eve... [See more](#)



👍❤️👉 949

878 cc



Robert Halfon MP ✓

@RobertHalfon · Politician

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📄 Member of Parliament for Harlow and the Villages.

👍 6,072 people like this

✔ 6,346 people follow this

🌐 <http://new.roberthalfon.com/contact/>

💬 Send message

✉ halfon4harlow@roberthalfon.com

👤 Politician

📄 Promoted by Simon Carter on behalf of Robert Halfon, both of Harlow Enterprise Hub, Kao-Hockham Building, Edinburgh Way, Harlow, CM20 2NQ. ** Facebook Commenting Policy ** This Facebook Page provides a platform for the public to provide feedback and commentary on topical issues and keep in touch with Robert Halfon. Posted comments, links, video and images do not necessarily represent the views of Robert. External links on our Facebook Page do not constitute official endorsement or agreement on behalf of Robert. While we encourage fans to share thoughts and opinions on the page, we expect that this will be done in a



Robert Halfon MP ✓

4h · 🌐



ICYMI: I have been working hard to ensure everyone in our community has the support they need to get through this. I know that many residents and businesses are still facing difficulties and I will continue to do everything possible to help them.

WE STAND TOGETHER

in Harlow

- ✔ 16,000 Harlow jobs protected by the furlough scheme
- ✔ 5,000 Harlow self-employed residents supported by the self-employed scheme
- ✔ 2,041 local businesses boosted by Bounce Back Loans worth £64 million
- ✔ 88 local businesses boosted by the CBILS worth £20.5 million
- ✔ £15.7 million in business grants for Harlow businesses
- ✔ £1 million to help residents struggling with Council Tax



Start your own petition on an issue you care about:

Start a petition

Currently Online

274

Total actions taken

39,649,749

Campaigns

15,259

Talking to constituents and their concerns

“To be an effective MP, you have actually got to speak to as many people as you can to appreciate what their concerns are. You have got to address them, even if you don’t agree with them, you have got to, sort of you know, be able to speak to them, and let them truly believe they are, that they can influence decision-making, that you’re not just someone who ignores them, through casework and surgeries... People have immediate problems”

– Conservative MP (personal communication, 29 July 2015).

“People do raise things, and I note them all down. Everything they raise is followed up with a letter and some action, that’s a very important part of it... I get a lot of representations on policy issues. I am being flooded at the moment with emails on tax credit, and the government’s attack on tax credits.”

- Labour MP (personal communication, 1 July 2015)

On online petition sites

“I have no objections to online petition websites. 38 Degrees do their online petitions, like everything else, people who petition you, I am prepared to listen! Of course if it’s national petitions it would be difficult to extrapolate. But I mean, I always have to bear in mind that unless anything extraordinary ever happens, petitions, large as they may be, the interesting point is the number of people who have chosen not to petition on a particular issue. That’s not to say then you can disregard a petition.”

- Conservative MP (personal communication, 7 Jan 2016)

“... It is very easy for people to flood an MP’s inboxes. Some of my colleagues see it as an irritation, I see it as a resource. Because it is hundreds and hundreds of constituents volunteering their email address on an issue they are caring about, and if you respond as we do to each one quite quickly, as we do, then people are quite impressed.”

- Labour MP (personal communication, 1 July 2015)

Influencing MP Decision- Making Challenges

- Sheer volume of demands, especially across platforms and activities
- A balancing act between responsibilities in Parliament and issues raised
- Priority given to constituency concerns
- No 'backup' MP should health or personal problems emerge

Thank you.

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